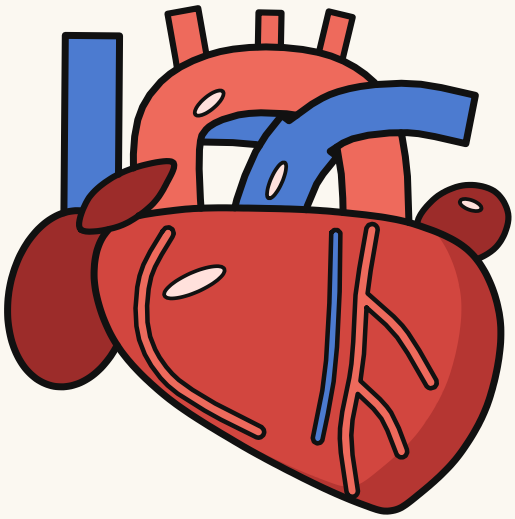
How to Draw a Human Heart

11 easy steps for beginners



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What you'll need

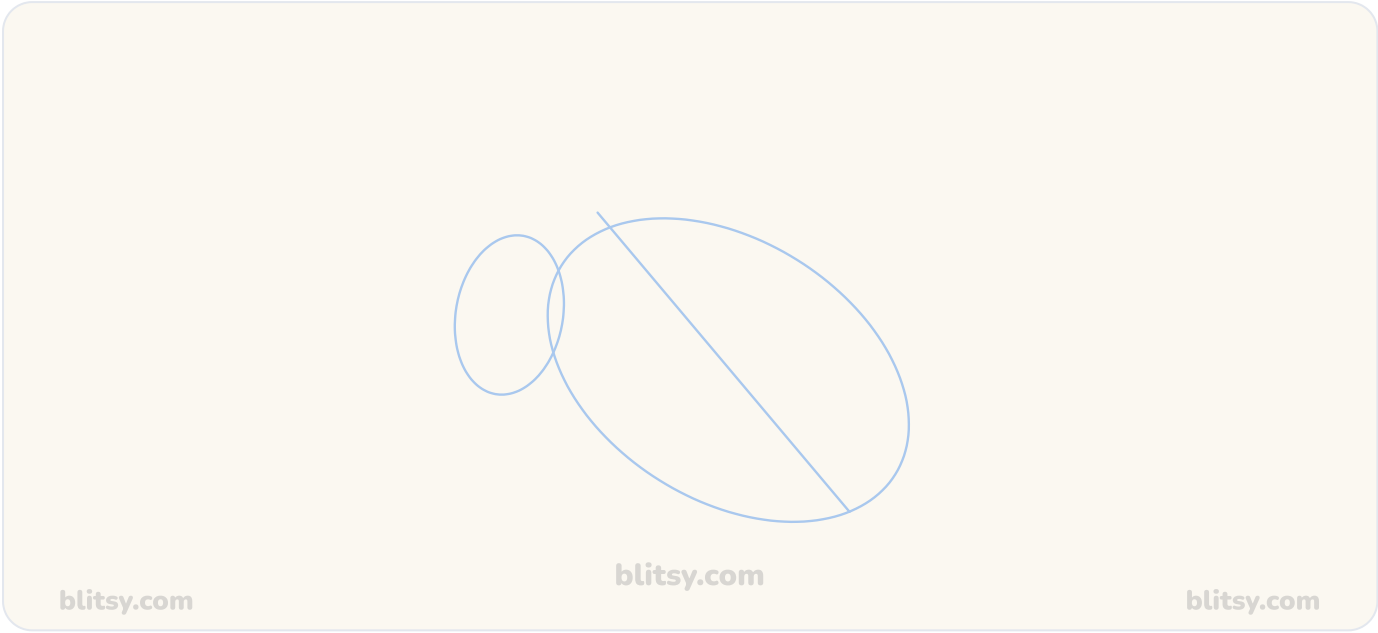
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Red and blue colored pencils
- Plain paper

How to use this guide

New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

Read the full tutorial online →

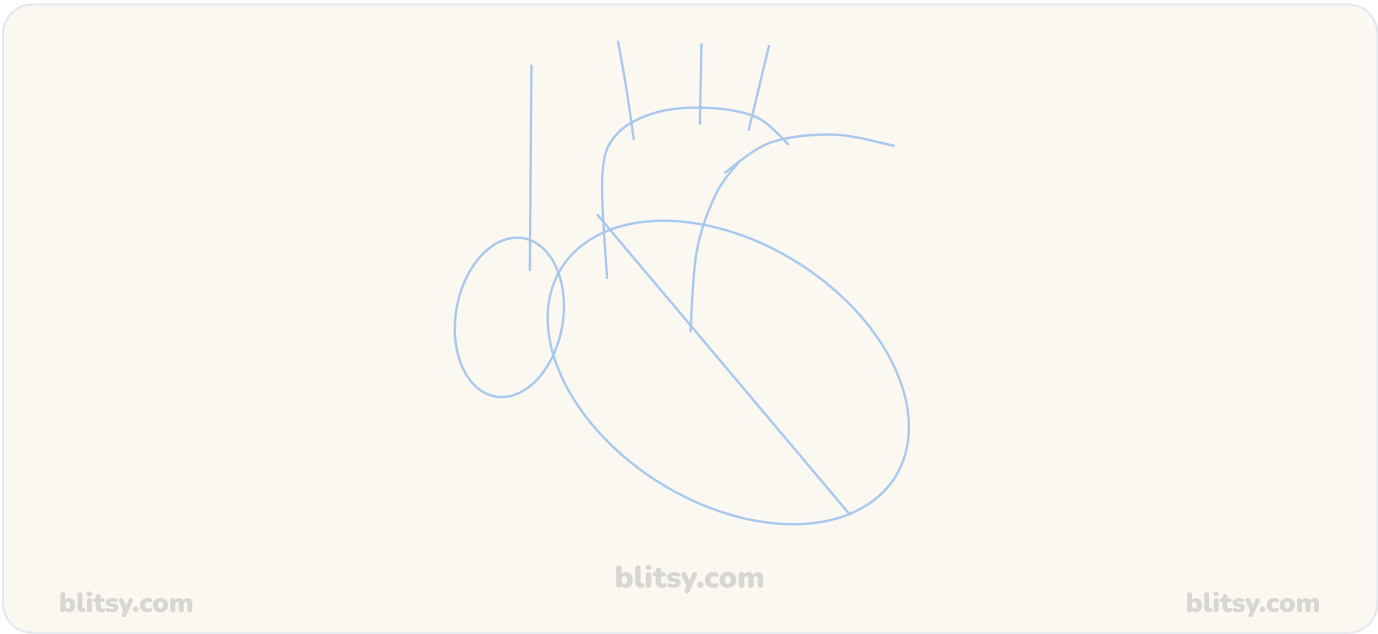
STEP 1 Sketch a tilted oval and a small circle



Draw a slanted line from the upper middle of the page down toward the lower right. Around it, sketch a big oval that leans the same way. The lean matters: in a front view the pointed tip, called the apex, sits low on the right of your page. Then add a smaller upright oval on the left, overlapping the big one. It becomes the right atrium.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the lines. They all get erased later.

STEP 2 Add guide lines for the tubes



Above the oval, draw a curved line shaped like an upside-down U. That's the path of the aorta arch. Put three short sticks on top of it, one tall straight line on the far left for the vena cava, and one line that climbs out of the middle of the oval and bends to the right for the pulmonary artery. I place these first, because the vessels decide how tall the drawing gets.

💡 **Tip:** Check the top sticks fit on the paper now, before you build anything around them.

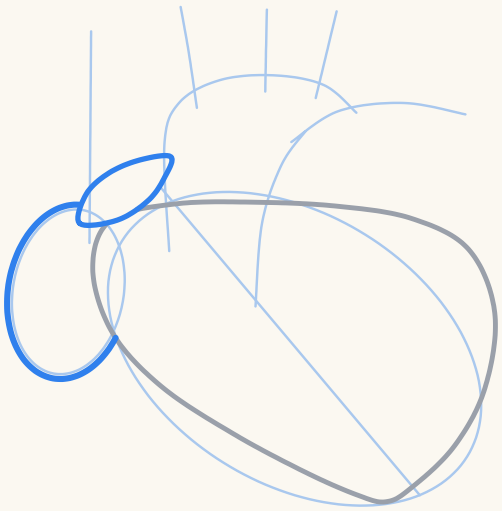
STEP 3 Outline the heart body



Now trace the main body with a firmer line. Keep the top fairly flat and wide, swing down the right side in a smooth curve, and bring both sides together at a soft point near the bottom right. This shape holds the two ventricles, the strong pumping chambers. Leave a small gap at the top left corner, where an ear flap will sit in the next step.

💡 **Tip:** Draw long curves in one stroke from your elbow, not in short scratchy bits.

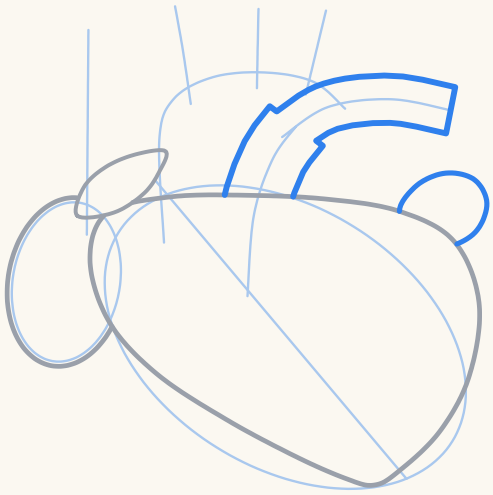
STEP 4 Draw the right atrium and its ear flap



Go over the small left oval to make the right atrium, stopping where it meets the body. Above it, add a pointed flap that leans toward the middle of the drawing. This flap is the right auricle, a little pouch on the atrium that really does look like an ear. Give it a point, not a round ball.

💡 **Tip:** Let the flap overlap the body's top edge a little. Overlaps make it look solid.

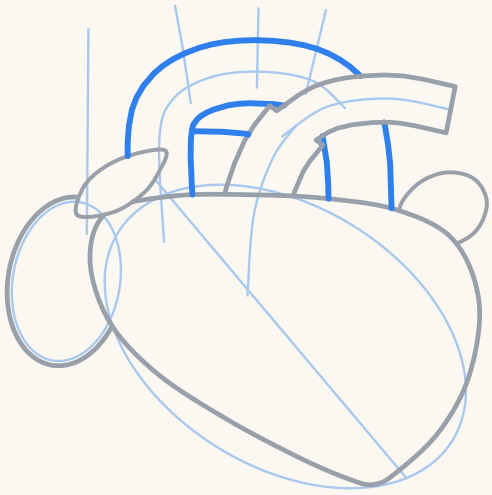
STEP 5 Draw the pulmonary artery



Turn the bending guide line into a thick tube. It rises out of the top of the body, then splits under where the arch will go, with one branch heading to the right and ending in a flat cut. The pulmonary artery carries blood from the heart to the lungs. On the upper right, tuck a small rounded flap behind the body for the left auricle.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the part that's closest to you first, then tuck the next part behind it.

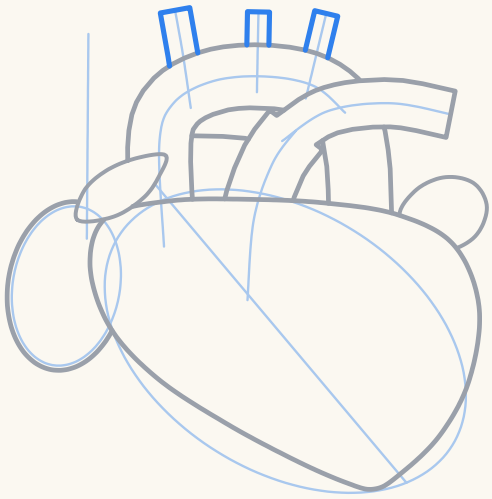
STEP 6 Add the aorta arch



The aorta is the biggest artery in the body, and it's the curved tube on top. Draw it up from the middle of the heart, over in a wide arch, and down on the right side behind the pulmonary artery. Wherever the blue tube crosses in front, stop your line at its edge. Add the short stub of the second pulmonary branch under the arch.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the tube the same width all the way around the curve, like a garden hose.

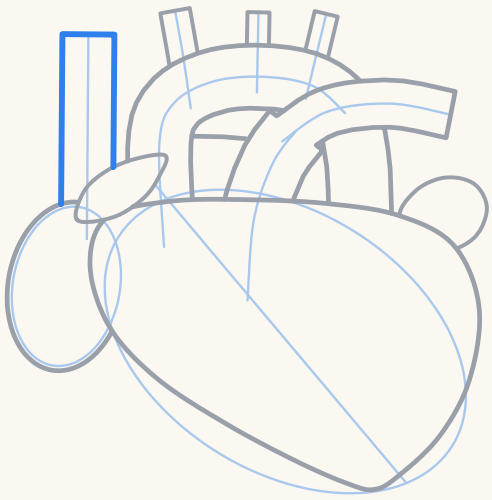
STEP 7 Draw three arteries on top of the arch



Three narrow tubes rise from the top of the arch. Going from left to right, they are the brachiocephalic trunk, the left common carotid artery and the left subclavian artery. Make the first one a bit wider than the other two and cut all three off with a flat top, the way diagrams do. They carry blood up to the head and the arms.

💡 **Tip:** Space the three tubes evenly along the arch before you thicken them.

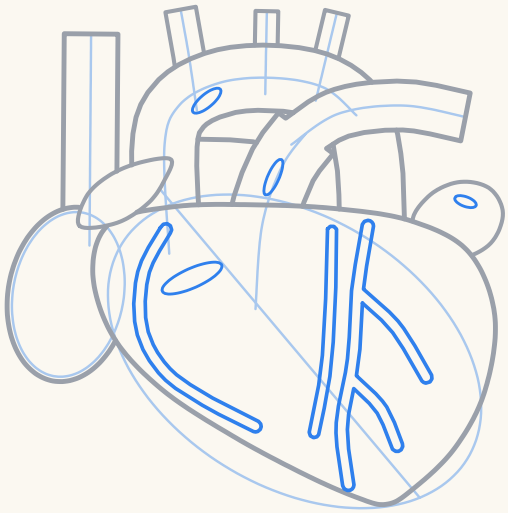
STEP 8 Add the superior vena cava



On the far left, draw a straight, wide tube from above the arch down into the right atrium. This is the superior vena cava. It brings blood back from the head and arms, and it's one of the two vessels in this drawing you'll color blue. Its bottom end disappears behind the ear flap, so stop the lines there.

💡 **Tip:** Use a ruler lightly for this tube if your straight lines tend to wander.

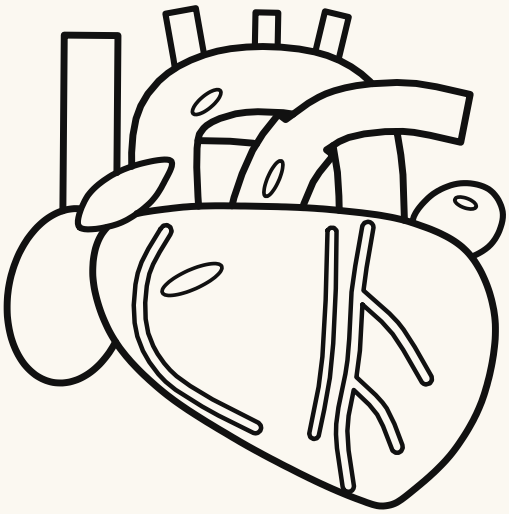
STEP 9 Draw the coronary vessels and shine marks



The heart feeds its own muscle through coronary arteries. Draw one thin double line running down the front toward the apex, with two small branches off its right side. Add a second one curving along the left edge of the body, just inside the outline. Next to the front artery, draw a thin vein. Finish with a few small ovals for shine.

💡 **Tip:** Thin vessels look better slightly wobbly. Perfectly straight ones look like pipes.

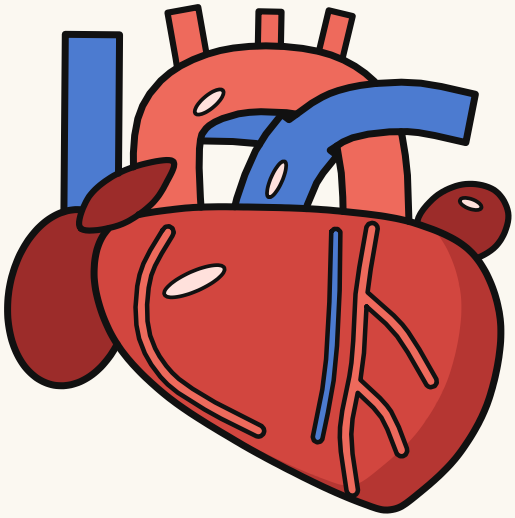
STEP 10 Ink the outline and erase the guides



Trace every final line with your fineliner, big shapes first and the thin coronary lines last. I slow right down on the arch, since a shaky curve there is the first thing people notice. Once the ink is dry, erase all the pencil so only the clean outline is left.

💡 **Tip:** Give the ink a full minute before you erase, or it will smear.

STEP 11 Color the heart



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Color the main body red and press harder along the right edge for a soft shadow. The right atrium and both ear flaps get dark red. Use a light red for the aorta, its three branches and the coronary arteries. The vena cava, the pulmonary artery and the small vein are blue. In real life all blood is red; blue is just how diagrams show blood that has given away its oxygen.

💡 **Tip:** Color the blue tubes last, so red pencil dust doesn't turn them purple.